

### AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

#### **LISTING OF CLAIMS:**

Claims 1-17 (Canceled).

Claim 18 (Withdrawn-Currently Amended): ~~Peptide~~ A peptide composition characterized in that it comprises comprising:

(a) ~~a~~ an isolated polypeptide NS3/NS4 of the hepatitis C virus, ~~as well as~~ and

(b) ~~a~~ an isolated polypeptide NS5b of the hepatitis C virus.

Claim 19 (Withdrawn-Currently Amended): ~~Peptide~~ The peptide composition according to claim 18, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein said NS3 and/or NS4 and/or NS5b originate from viruses of different genotypes.

Claim 20 (Withdrawn-Currently Amended): ~~Peptide~~ The peptide composition according to claim 18, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein said NS3, NS4 and NS5b originate from a virus of the same genotype, ~~preferably genotype 1b~~.

Claim 21 (Currently Amended): ~~Expression~~ An expression vector characterized in that it comprises comprising:

(a) a nucleotide sequence coding for the polypeptide NS3/NS4 of the hepatitis C virus,

~~(b) and~~ a nucleotide sequence coding for the polypeptide NS5b of the hepatitis C virus,  
and

~~(c) as well as the means necessary to~~ the their-expression of said nucleotide sequences.

Claim 22 (Currently Amended): ~~Expression~~ The expression vector according to claim 21, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the nucleotide sequences code for a polyprotein and a polypeptide originating from viruses of different genotypes.

Claim 23 (Currently Amended): ~~Expression~~ The expression vector according to claim 21, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the nucleotide sequences code for a polyprotein and a polypeptide originating from a virus of the same genotype, ~~preferably the genotype 1b~~.

Claim 24 (Currently Amended): ~~Expression~~ The expression vector according to claim 21, ~~characterized in that this~~ wherein said expression vector is an adenovirus.

Claim 25 (Currently Amended): ~~Expression~~ The expression vector according to claim 24, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the genome of the adenovirus is modified so as to replace the E1 region by the expression cassette CMV-NS3-NS4 and to replace the E3 region by the expression cassette SV40-NS5b.

Claim 26 (Currently Amended): ~~Expression~~ The expression vector according to claim 21, ~~characterized in that this~~ wherein said expression vector is a poxvirus.

Claim 27 (Currently Amended): ~~Expression~~ The expression vector according to claim 26, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the genome of the poxvirus is modified so as to insert the expression cassette ph5r-NS3-NS4 and to insert the expression cassette p7.5- NS5b.

Claim 28 (Currently Amended): ~~Microorganism~~ A microorganism or host cell transformed by an expression vector as defined in claim 21.

Claim 29 (Currently Amended): A method for the inhibition, prevention or control of an infection caused by the hepatitis C virus in an animal, ~~preferably human,~~  
comprising wherein said method comprises administering to an animal in need thereof:

(a) the use of a peptide composition that comprises ~~comprising~~ a an isolated polypeptide NS3/NS4 of the hepatitis C virus, ~~as well as~~ and an isolated a polypeptide NS5b of the hepatitis C virus;

(b) or of an expression vector comprising (i) a nucleotide sequence coding for the polypeptide NS3/NS4 of the hepatitis C virus, (ii) a nucleotide sequence coding for the polypeptide NS5b of the hepatitis C virus, and (iii) the means necessary to the expression of said nucleotide sequences as defined in claim 21;

(c) or of an expression vector comprising a nucleotide sequence coding for the polypeptide NS3/NS4 of the hepatitis C virus with and an expression vector comprising a nucleotide sequence coding for the polypeptide NS5b of the hepatitis C virus; or

(d) an expression vector comprising nucleotide sequences coding for said the polypeptide NS3/NS4 of the hepatitis C virus and said the polypeptide NS5b of the hepatitis C virus, said nucleotide sequences corresponding to the sequences contained in the expression vectors as defined in claim 21, placed under the control of elements necessary to

an expression constitutive of and/or inducible from said polyprotein NS3/NS4 of the hepatitis C virus and said polypeptide NS5b of the hepatitis C virus ~~peptides~~.

Claim 30 (Withdrawn-Currently Amended): ~~Pharmaceutical~~ A pharmaceutical composition comprising a, in particular vaccine, wherein said vaccine comprises:

~~(a) comprising as active ingredient the~~ a peptide composition that comprises comprising an isolated a polyprotein NS3/NS4 of the hepatitis C virus, as well as and an isolated a polypeptide NS5b of the hepatitis C virus;

~~(b) or~~ an expression vector comprising (i) a nucleotide sequence coding for the polyprotein NS3/NS4 of the hepatitis C virus, (ii) a nucleotide sequence coding for the polypeptide NS5b of the hepatitis C virus, and (iii) the means necessary to the expression of said nucleotide sequences as defined in claim 21; or

~~(c) or~~ an expression vector comprising a nucleotide sequence coding for the polyprotein NS3/NS4 of the hepatitis C virus with and an expression vector comprising a nucleotide sequence coding for the polypeptide NS5b of the hepatitis C virus.

Claim 31 (Withdrawn-Currently Amended): ~~Pharmaceutical~~ The pharmaceutical composition according to claim 30, ~~characterized in that it also~~ wherein said pharmaceutical composition further comprises a pharmaceutically appropriate vehicle.

Claim 32 (Currently Amended): ~~Pharmaceutical~~ A pharmaceutical kit, in particular vaccinal comprising a vaccine, characterized in that it wherein said vaccine comprises:

(a) at least one expression vector comprising a nucleotide sequence coding for the polyprotein NS3/NS4 of the hepatitis C virus; and

(b) at least one expression vector comprising a nucleotide sequence coding for the Polypeptide polypeptide NS5b of the hepatitis C virus.

Claim 33 (Withdrawn-Currently Amended): ~~Pharmaceutical~~ A pharmaceutical kit comprising a vaccine, wherein said vaccine~~in particular vaccinal, characterized in that it~~ comprises:

(a) at least one adenoviral expression vector ~~characterized in that it~~ comprises~~comprising~~ a nucleotide sequence coding for the polyprotein NS3/NS4 of the hepatitis C virus, and a nucleotide sequence coding for the polypeptide NS5b of the hepatitis C virus, as well as and the means necessary to ~~their~~ the expression of said nucleotide sequences, wherein said vector is an adenovirus; and

(b) at least one poxviral expression vector ~~characterized in that it comprises~~comprising a nucleotide sequence coding for the polyprotein NS3/NS4 of the hepatitis C virus, and a nucleotide sequence coding for the polypeptide NS5b of the hepatitis C virus, as well as and the means necessary to ~~their~~ the expression of said nucleotide sequences, wherein said vector is a poxvirus.

Claim 34 (Currently Amended): ~~Pharmaceutical~~ A pharmaceutical kit comprising a vaccine, wherein said vaccine comprises;~~in particular vaccinal, comprising~~

(a) at least one of the following expression ~~vector~~ vectors:

\_\_\_\_\_ (i) an expression vector comprising a nucleotide sequence coding for the polyprotein NS3/NS4 of the hepatitis C virus, a nucleotide sequence coding for the polypeptide NS5b of the hepatitis C virus, and the means necessary to the expression of said nucleotide sequences; and

~~\_\_\_\_\_ as defined in claim 21, or (ii) at least one~~an expression vector comprising a nucleotide sequence coding for the polyprotein NS3/NS4 of the hepatitis C virus ~~with and~~ an expression vector comprising a nucleotide sequence coding for the ~~Polypeptide~~ polypeptide NS5b of the hepatitis C virus; and

(b) at least one of the following compositions:

~~\_\_\_\_\_ (i) at least one~~a peptide composition ~~that comprises a~~comprising an isolated polyprotein NS3/NS4 of the hepatitis C virus, ~~as well as a~~ and an isolated polypeptide NS5b of the hepatitis C virus, ~~or and~~

~~\_\_\_\_\_ (ii) at least one~~a composition comprising an isolated nucleotide sequence coding for the polyprotein NS3/NS4 of the hepatitis C virus and for the polypeptide NS5b of the hepatitis C virus.

Claim 35 (Withdrawn-New) The peptide composition according to claim 20, wherein said NS3, NS4, and NS5b originate from a virus of genotype 1b.

Claim 36 (New) The expression vector according to claim 23, wherein said nucleotide sequences code for a polyprotein and a polypeptide originating from a virus of genotype 1b.

Claim 37 (New) The method of claim 29, wherein said animal is a human.